

STATE SENATOR • MICHAEL PRUSI • 38TH DISTRICT  
**Prusi Press Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 17, 2005**

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**PRUSI INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO  
RAISE MINIMUM WAGE**

**LANSING** – Sen. Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) today joined his Democratic colleagues in the Senate to introduce a package of bills raising the state’s minimum wage to \$7.15/hour. This package of bills is the first step in protecting Michigan’s working families and ensuring they earn a fair wage.

“Forty percent of minimum wage workers are the sole breadwinners for their families,” said Sen. Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming). “Every Michigan worker should be able to live the American Dream in which hard work is rewarded with economic advancement.”

Sen. Mike Prusi is sponsor of Senate Bill 320 that would tie minimum wage permanently to the rate of inflation. If the minimum wage was worth today what it was in 1968, it would be about \$8.50 per hour, yet it remains stuck at \$5.15.

Raising the minimum wage by two dollars per hour would directly benefit at least 464,000 Michigan workers or nearly 1 in 6 hourly workers statewide. The package of bills would raise the minimum wage in three stages. The legislation would raise the minimum wage to \$5.90/hour by July 1, 2005 and to \$6.65/hour by January 1, 2006. The final increase would raise the wage to \$7.15/hour on January 1, 2007.

“Raising the minimum wage is about doing what’s right for Michigan’s workers and our economy,” Prusi said. “Minimum wage should lift people out of poverty and ensure them basic necessities.”

*Please Note: An audio file of Senator Prusi commenting on the minimum wage package can be downloaded at the following web address: <http://www.senate.mi.gov/Audio%20Clips/38-031705.wav>*

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*Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.*